IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1 to 11.

Claim 12 (currently amended) An aerosol composition for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of a host comprising:

an aerosolized aqueous solution containing a derivative of the ~~modified~~ therapeutic agent, the derivative ~~modified therapeutic agent~~ comprising the~~a~~ therapeutic agent and a reactive group which has the ability to react~~s~~ *in vivo* with an amino group~~s~~, hydroxyl group~~s~~ or thiol group~~s~~ on a pulmonary or blood component~~s~~ to form a stable covalent bond.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 12 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 12 wherein said modified therapeutic agent is 2.5-10% by weight.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 12 wherein said therapeutic agent an anti-histamine.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 15 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 15 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A particulate formulation for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of a host comprising:

a dispersable dry powder containing a modified therapeutic agent, the modified therapeutic agent comprising thea therapeutic agent and a reactive group which has the ability to reacts *in vivo* with an amino groups, hydroxyl groups or thiol groups on a pulmonary or blood components to form a stable covalent bond.

Claim 19 (original) The particulate formulation of claim 18 wherein at least 50% of the dry powder is in the form of particles having a diameter of 10 um or less.

Claim 20 (original) The particulate formulation of claim 18 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 21 (original) The particulate formulation of claim 20 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 22 (original) The particulate formulation of claim 20 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Claim 23 (currently amended) A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a host comprising the steps of:

obtaining a modified therapeutic agent, the modified therapeutic agent comprising thea therapeutic agent and a reactive group which has the ability to reacts *in vivo* with an amino groups, hydroxyl groups or thiol groups on a pulmonary or blood components to form a stable covalent bond; and

administering the modified therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of the host.

Claim 24 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of aerosolizing the modified therapeutic agent for inhalation by the host.

Claim 25 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of dispersing a dry formulation of the modified therapeutic agent for inhalation by the host.

Caim 26 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of instilling the modified therapeutic agent into the pulmonary system of the host.

Claim 27 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said reactive group is a succinimidyl or a maleimido group.

Claim 28 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on a mobile pulmonary component.

Claim 29 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on a fixed pulmonary component.

Claim 30 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on a mobile blood component.

Claim 31 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on a fixed blood component.

Claim 32 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on human serum albumin.

Claim 33 (original) The method of claim 23 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 34 (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 35 (original) The method of claim 33 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Please cancel claims 36 to 55.

Claim 56 (currently amended) An aerosol composition for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of a host comprising an aerosolized aqueous solution containing a modified therapeutic agent conjugated to a ~~blood protein~~pulmonary or blood component~~.~~; the modified therapeutic agent comprising the therapeutic agent and a reactive group that has reacted with an amino group, hydroxyl group or thiol group on a pulmonary or blood component and formed a stable covalent bond.

Claim 57 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 56 wherein said ~~protein~~blood component is albumin.

Claim 58 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 56 wherein said therapeutic agent an anti-histamine.

Claim 59 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 56 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 60 (currently amended) The aerosol composition of claim 56 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Claim 61 (currently amended) A particulate formulation for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the pulmonary system of a host comprising:

a dispersable dry powder containing a modified therapeutic agent conjugated to a pulmonary or blood component, the modified therapeutic agent comprising thea therapeutic agent and a reactive group ~~which~~that has reacted~~s~~ with an amino group~~s~~, hydroxyl group~~s~~ or thiol group~~s~~ on a pulmonary or blood component~~s~~ to and formed a stable covalent bond. ~~wherein said therapeutic agent is covalently bonded to a blood protein~~.

Claim 62 (currently amended) The particulate formulation of claim 61 wherein said ~~protein~~blood component is albumin.

Claim 63 (currently amended) The particulate formulation of claim 61 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 64 (currently amended) The particulate formulation of claim 61 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 65 (original) The particulate formulation of claim 61 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.

Claim 66 (New) A method of delivering a therapeutic agent to a host comprising the steps of:

obtaining a conjugate of the therapeutic agent, the conjugate comprising a derivative of the therapeutic agent covalently bonded to a pulmonary or blood component, the derivative of the therapeutic agent comprising the therapeutic agent having a reactive group able to react with an amino group, hydroxyl group or thiol group on the pulmonary or blood component to form a stable covalent bond; and

administering the conjugate to the pulmonary system of the host.

Claim 67 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of aerosolizing the conjugate of the therapeutic agent for inhalation by the host.

Claim 68 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of dispersing a dry formulation of the conjugate of the therapeutic agent for inhalation by the host.

Claim 69 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said administering step further comprises the steps of instilling the conjugate of the therapeutic agent into the pulmonary system of the host.

Claim 70 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said reactive group is a succinimidyl or a maleimido group.

Claim 71 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on a pulmonary component.

Claim 72 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said reactive group is a maleimido group which is reactive with a thiol group on a blood component.

Claim 73 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said therapeutic agent is an anti-histamine.

Claim 74 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said therapeutic agent is loratidine.

Claim 75 (New) The method of claim 66 wherein said therapeutic agent is cetirizine.